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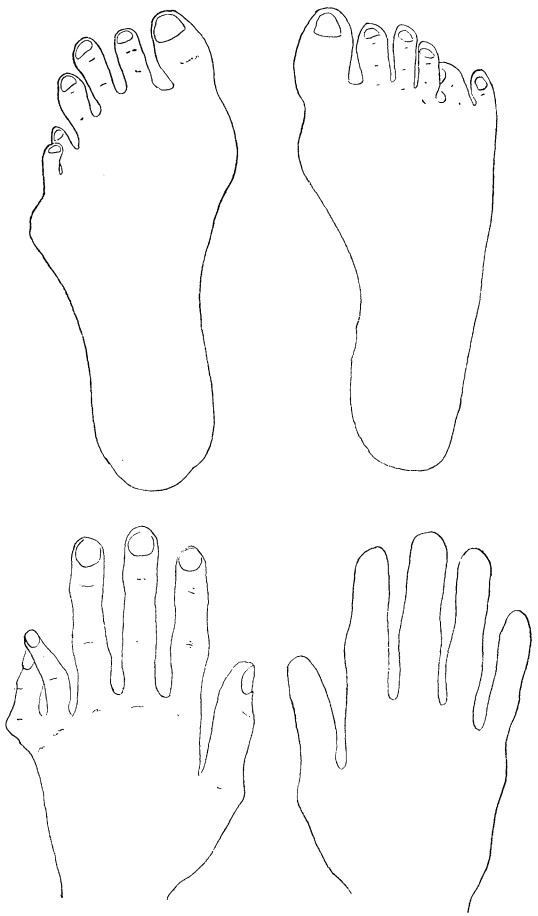
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4. **A Case of Polydactylism.** — A number of years since, a case of polydactylism attracted my attention, and in view of the value of



records of such cases I have decided to offer an account of the facts as known to me. The case was that of a young man twenty-five years of age, a student in Hamline University. The accompanying

drawings are tracings made by running a pencil around the outlines of the feet and hands. The right hand is entirely normal. The left hand varies as to the little fingers, there being two digits. A careful manipulation of the palm showed that there is a single metacarpal at the base, and distally two digits, each with three bones; the bones are entirely separate, though the skin grows across between them on the level of the proximal joint. Both of the feet are six-toed, the ulnar digit in each being doubled. This doubling was found, by feeling through the skin, to begin with the digit, the metacarpal being single. The left foot bears a lump on the outside at the base of the outer digit, seemingly due to an irregularity connected with the variation presented by the toes. I was told that it had been there from before the time of fitting the first pair of shoes. There was no knowledge of a similar condition of the digits in the family; the grandparents were personally known to the young man and nothing like it had been remarked among his relatives.

The case appears to fall in the class of cases noted by Bateson ("Materials for the Study of Variation," p. 345) as among the commonest forms of polydactylism, in which there is an extra minimus, the metacarpals and metatarsals being normal. H. L. OSBORN.

5. **Pedigree Mouse Breeding.**[1] — V. Guaita has bred white and walzing mice through seven generations. There has been a loss of fecundity, due to too close inbreeding. Tables are given showing the ancestry of about three hundred mice of varying colors. The author does not make sufficient use of his data. The most striking fact is that when pure-bred white mice were crossed with pure-bred walzers (chiefly black and white), all of the twenty-eight progeny were gray, or like a house mouse, and none were walzers. When these were bred together, nine color classes at once appeared, including albinos and walzers, as well as grays and gray-blacks. If the results of breeding in the later generations are compared with what one should expect from Galton's law of ancestral inheritance, it results that the albinos appear unusually stable and prepotent. On the other hand, the walzing condition seems to be unstable and to be less potent than normal.

[1] Von Guaita, G. Zweite Mittheilung über Versuche mit Kreuzungen von verschiedenen Hausmausrassen, *Berichte d. naturf. Ges. Freiburg*, Bd. xi, Heft 2, pp. 131–138, 1899.